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Army Review Completed

GENERAL

1. Western Commandants' view of Berlin situation--According to US Commanding General Taylor in Berlin, the three Western Commandants in Berlin agree that the recent Soviet interference in Western traffic to Berlin reflects a deliberate Soviet plan to sabotage the economic rehabilitation of Berlin, undermine the confidence of Berliners and West Germans, and embarrass the Western Powers. Taylor adds that the Western Commandants have agreed to maintain close collaboration on this matter and to consider at their 26 January 1950 meeting the merits of making a joint protest to Soviet authorities.

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2. 15 February proposed for resuming Austrian treaty talks--US representative Reber in London reports that the Western Deputies to the Austrian treaty talks have agreed upon 15 February as the date of the next Deputies' meeting in order to keep the London talks alive, while giving the USSR an opportunity to conclude its financial negotiations with the Austrians in Vienna. (Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Gromyko has insisted that the Vienna talks must be completed before the Deputies in London can discuss as a group the outstanding issues of the Austrian treaty.) The Department of State has informed Reber that the completion of the Austrian treaty with the subsequent withdrawal of Soviet occupation forces remains the major US objective in Austria and that if a treaty cannot be concluded at this time, the Department will consider alternative courses of action to achieve Western aims in Austria.

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Meanwhile, US Minister Erhardt in Vienna has learned from the Austrian Foreign Office that during a recent conversation with the Austrian Foreign Minister in Moscow, Gromyko, for the first time, failed to give assurances that the Austrian offer in the financial negotiations was being studied. The Austrian Foreign Office added that Gromyko appeared "embarrassed and unusually reticent" at the meeting.

State Dept. review completed

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